

**HOME IMPROVEMENT AND STRUCTURAL  
ALTERATIONS (HISA) PROGRAM**

- 1. PURPOSE:** This change to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive 97-024 extends the \$1,200 Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA) benefit to Discretionary (Category C) veterans as promulgated by Public Law (Pub. L.) 105-114, dated November 23, 1997.
- 2. BACKGROUND:** Public Law (Pub. L.) 94-581, The Veterans Omnibus Health Care Act of 1976, amended Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) to extend the home health services authority to include home improvements and structural alterations which were necessary to ensure the continuation of treatment or provide access to the home or to essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. Pub. L. 102-405 increased the lifetime HISA benefits limitation for service-connected veterans from \$2,500 to \$4,100 and non service-connected veterans HISA benefits from \$600 to \$1,200 and made payments retroactive to January 1, 1990. Pub. L. 104-262 and Pub. L. 105-114, Section 402(b)(2) made further changes to the HISA benefit amending 38 U.S.C. Section 1717.
- 3. POLICY:** The HISA Program must be conducted in accordance with the guidance set forth in VHA Directive 97-024 dated May 9, 1997, and amended by Change 1.
- 4. ACTION:** Subparagraph 4c is changed to read "Veterans who are required to pay a copayment for their care are eligible for \$1,200 HISA benefit due to enactment of Pub. L. 105-114, Section 402(b)(2)."
- 5. FOLLOW UP RESPONSIBILITY:** Chief Consultant, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids (PSAS) Strategic Healthcare Group (113), is responsible for the contents of this Directive.
- 6. RESCISSIONS:** This VHA Directive and change 1 expire on May 9, 2002.

S/ Thomas Garthwaite, M.D. for  
Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H.  
Under Secretary for Health

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**THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES MAY 9, 2002**